

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

A member of an examination board testing the scholastic progress made by corre-
spondence course (Fernunterricht) students of the Karl Marx Academy has submitted
the following observations regarding the types of functionary who participate in
the instruction:

1. The students, for the most part high-ranking trade union (FIOGB) officials
who are experienced functionaries occupying important positions, were found
completely lacking in theoretical or general knowledge. The examination
covered political economy, philosophy, and the history of the Communist Party
of the USSR. In general, the results of the examination revealed deficiency
in political economy and only slightly better command of history. This was
particularly true of the chairmen of several industrial unions, all of whom
confessed to but a superficial knowledge of Marxism/Leninism and took every
opportunity to turn the discussion to the practical aspects of their work.
2. It was noted that the examinees derived an almost childish pleasure from
enumerating and recounting their functions, striving to adopt the posture of
experienced men of the world in speech and dress.
3. When asked about their plans for the future, many of the functionaries expressed
a desire to join the diplomatic service. * Some of them had already expressed
this wish to Walter Ulbricht and had been advised that for the present there
existed no vacancies. The chairman of the Metal Workers' Trade Union, (fmr)
Otto, claimed to be engaged in training his successor prior to accepting a
diplomatic assignment.
4. In addition to the aforementioned type of functionary, whose principal aim
appears to be the advancement of his personal fortune and who, through many
varying ruses, manages to evade serious study of Marxism/Leninism, basing
his hope for promotion upon his "glorious record" of the past, there exists
another more characteristic type of functionary among the Karl Marx Academy
students. This type is represented by the young, very ambitious and fanatic
functionaries of the SED, some of whom joined the Party after attendance at
Antifa schools in the USSR. Their goal is to regain the "lost years of their
lives", which many of them spent in the performance of Hitler Youth functions.
In much the same manner in which the older functionaries are drawn to a diplo-
matic career, the younger functionaries express the desire to obtain a commis-
sion in the Volkspolizei. They strive for admittance to a Party school in

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an attempt to digest as much theoretical knowledge as they can, and their fanaticism leads to embittered competitive strife among them. Those who come from petty bourgeois families try to compensate this disadvantage by excelling in theoretical knowledge. As a rule, however, such functionaries are placed in teaching positions at a Party school, whereas the sons and daughters of workers receive leading state and Party positions.

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5. a fallacy the assumption that an above-average command of Marxism/Leninism forms the best basis for rapid promotion within the SED. At present and for a long time to come, the best opportunity for advancement belongs to the sons of working-class parents, preferably with a solid KPD background. Those functionaries, however, who endeavor to live down their petit-bourgeois background by displaying an exaggerated subservience, combine the characteristics of careerists and obedient tools. They constitute the most vulnerable elements of the functionary body from the point of view of hostile penetrations.

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- * Comment: The desire to enter the diplomatic service has also been noted among well-paid functionaries of the Kader Section of an SED Land Directorate, many of whom wanted to attend the Foreign Service School.

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